Upgradation of Bagdogra Airport

170. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bagdogra Airport has been recently upgraded; and

(b) if so, whether the Indian Airlines will now immediately restore daily flights from Kolkata to Bagdogra and *vice-versa* since this is most crucial link between the North and South of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Airports Authority of India maintains a Civil Enclave at Bagdogra Airport. A new terminal building with all modern passenger facilities to cater to 500 passengers at a time, at a cost of Rs. 11.43 crores has been commissioned on 8th September, 2000. Customs and Immigration facilities are also available to handle limited international flights.

(b) Indian Airlines is currently operating three flights a week between Kolkata and Bagdogra. At present, there is no plan to increase the frequency to daily service due to shortage of aircraft with Indian Airlines.

Introduction of Boeing-737 services from Jabalpur

†171. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Indian Airlines Boeing-737 services are being introduced from Jabalpur;

(b) the sector in which these services will be operated;

(c) whether flights of Dornier-228 will be stopped after the introduction of Boeing service; and

(d) if not, whether any extension is proposed in it?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) A joint inspection of Jabalpur aerodrome was carried out by a team comprising representatives from Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and Alliance Air. The Joint Inspection Team has listed some requirements which are pre-requisite for B-737 operations. Once these requirements have been adequately met, Indian Airlines will start scheduled jet operations to/fro Jabalpur including sectors to be started on. The continuance of operations of Dornier-228 will be reviewed simultaneously.

International Airport at NOIDA, U.P.

172. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop an International Airport at Noida in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, by when the work on its development is likely to start and by when the airport will be functional?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, there is no plan to develop an international airport at NOIDA, U.P.

Overbooking of CD 7278 Flight

173. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines flight CD 7278 Kolkata-Bhubaneswar-Hyderabad was on 22nd May, 2001 overbooked by the Airport officials at Bhubaneswar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that five passengers with confirmed tickets were off-loaded by the Airlines staff and five others who were the relatives of the airport officials were given the seats with the result that the flight was delayed;

(c) if so, what action has been taken against the concerned Airport officials; and